Ontario

Ontario Women's Directorate

NEWS RELEASE

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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT MARKS SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION MONTH

Improving Supports For Vulnerable Women And Working To Break The Cycle Of Violence

QUEEN'S PARK – Sexual Assault Prevention Month is a time to join together to raise awareness of sexual assault and focus on early intervention and prevention in order to break the cycle of violence, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues Sandra Pupatello said today.

"Our government is helping vulnerable women by increasing funding to sexual assault centres to make sure victims get the help they need," said Pupatello. "We also want to take action to prevent the violence from happening in the first place."

The McGuinty government provided the first annual funding increase to sexual assault centres in 13 years and makes a yearly investment of $12.5 million. The government is also investing in a $4.9 million public education and prevention campaign aimed at mobilizing communities to play an active role in ending all forms of violence against women.

Earlier this year, the government provided an additional $1.3 million in special one-time funding to sexual assault agencies for public education, training and facility improvements. This is in addition to a $3.1 million investment from the Victims Justice Fund last fall to support victims of crime, including sexual assault.

"Sexual assault agencies are often the first point of contact for women who are victims of violence," said Pupatello. "It is imperative that we support frontline workers in these centres so that they can intervene early and help victims of sexual assault."

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Contacts:
Michelle Despault, Minister's Office, (416) 212-3747
Linda Cousins , Communications Branch, (416) 314-7389

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